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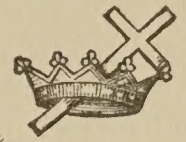

Student Volunteers

for

Foreign Missions.

NORTHFIELD, MASS., '87.

"Strengthen, O God, that which thou hast wrought for us."

To the Student Volunteers for Foreign Missions.

NORTHFIELD, MASS., JULY, 1887.

Across the Connecticut River, at Mount Hermon, a great work was begun twelve months ago. One hundred young men, who had come from widely separated colleges for Bible study, offered themselves for foreign mission service. Since then the Spirit has been moving mightily among the colleges and seminaries of Canada and of the United States, until over two thousand two hundred students (of whom five hundred and fifty are women) have volunteered for the foreign fields. This together with the hundreds in England makes our number about three thousand.

Of this number one hundred are gathered in Northfield, and we send a word of hearty good cheer to our fellow volunteers in England and America. "Be steadfast, unmoveable." "Sanctify yourselves: for to-morrow the Lord will do wonders among you." "The Lord said unto me, Behold, *I have begun* to give Sihon and his land before thee: *begin* to possess."

"The missionary fire needs fuel as well as draught." The home work is constantly before our eyes, so let us keep the foreign field ever in view; try to grasp its numbers, to examine its critical condition, and to remember that "we must strike not only *when* the iron is hot, but *where* the iron is hot." Foreign missions have more than a passing notice in the Word of God. Through the Old Testament runs the silver cord, and in the Gospels and Epistles we have the golden bowl.

Some give a discouraging report of the land to be possessed. But "Let us go up AT ONCE and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it." Shall the world be evangelized in our life-time? Is the idea chimerical? The Earl of Shaftesbury said, "During the latter part of these centuries, it has been in the power of those who hold the truth * * * * to evangelize the globe fifty times over." One hundred and twenty of the missionaries in China, representatives of twenty-one Protestant missionary societies, say, "We want China emancipated from the thraldom of sin *in this generation.* It is possible. Our Lord has said 'according to your faith be it unto you.' The church of God *can do it.*" The Israelites took forty years for an eleven days' journey. Is the sin to be repeated?

Three years ago a missionary volunteer determined to do all he could for foreign missions during his theological course. On entering the Theological Seminary he found none expecting to go. By the time of his graduation twenty had enlisted for foreign work. There is no better opportunity to be a foreign missionary than during a college course. Get another to enlist, and at one stroke you double your missionary life. Not

only this. Your *united* efforts in enlisting others God only can measure. "Five of you shall chase an hundred, and an hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight."

Mr. Johnston, of the British Educational Commission for India, says that during the past hundred years the heathen and Mohammedans have increased two hundred millions. For each individual won to Christianity there have been seventy additions to the ranks of the unevangelized. It is estimated that of the two hundred millions in Africa one hundred and forty millions have not been touched by Christian teachers. This one field would swallow up our three thousand volunteers and cry for more. Then India numbers three hundred millions—or more than double the population of the Western Hemisphere. And China's four hundred million souls cry "We pray help *us*."* Thousands of square miles, densely populated, have never been trodden by Christian feet. "There remaineth yet *very much* land to be possessed."

If these numbers call for *help*, the rush of infidelity on their crumbling faiths calls for *haste*. Dr. Chamberlain says India is at present wonderfully prepared for Christ, and that if this opportunity is let slip, at least two generations will pass before another such opportunity can be offered. God has cast Japan into a furnace and it is molten. In what mould is it to be set? History gives us not one example of such a crisis. There is need not only for action, but for action NOW. The Mohammedans are making prodigious

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* To emphasize the need for more recruits let us circulate far and wide the enclosed diagram.

efforts to convert Africa. They are sweeping through the interior. Thousands of the aborigines are yielding to them because the Moslem faith appeals to the sensuous and is propagated by the sword. It is doubtless two or three times as hard to convert Mohammedans as to convert Pagans. Therefore delay in occupying Africa multiplies the difficulties of evangelization. The present crisis is greater than that of Esther's day when "the posts that rode upon swift steeds that were used in the king's service went out, being *hastened* and *pressed on* by the king's commandment."

Due prominence is not given to the reflex influence of foreign missions. The missionary movement among the university students of England and Scotland resulted in revivals at home. A prominent speaker recently said, "If young men should rise in large numbers and go to the foreign field, there would be such a revival at home that men would flock into the ministry." Mr. Stanley Smith said in Exeter Hall, "It is my earnest prayer that there may be such an outlet of men and women from this country as shall lead to an inlet of blessing from heaven." "There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty."

Some say there are heathen enough at *home*. "What can be more shameful than to make the imperfection of our Christianity at home an excuse for not doing our work abroad? It is as shameless as it is shameful. It is like a patricide asking the judge to have pity on his orphanhood."

In the United States we have an average of one minister to seven hundred men, women and children. Only one and three-tenths per cent. of our ministry go to the for-

eign field. According to the latest figures, out of each hundred thousand communicants in America, only twenty-one go to the foreign field; and out of each hundred thousand communicants in all Christendom, (Europe and America) only twenty-three. Hundreds of devoted students in our colleges need only to have the work brought clearly before them and they will enlist. Let meetings for volunteers never conflict with the regular college monthly missionary meeting, which should be the focal point of all our efforts. Upon it let us bring to bear the freshest facts and most telling figures. This meeting would be a power if we realized that forty millions die every year "without Christ . . . . having no hope." "When I say unto the wicked, O wicked man, thou shalt surely die, and thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way; that wicked man shall die in his iniquity, *but his blood will I require at thine hand.*"

Will there be money enough to back the troops? It is a fact that Christians are not realizing the privilege of giving. But this does not lessen our responsibility to *go*. Others have worked their way before the mast, why should not we? If possible, let us support ourselves. Eight missionaries of the Zenana Society of England are self-supporting. If our parents are planning for us a tour through Europe or years in a conservatory, might they not instead rejoice to support us as foreign missionaries? The first missionaries from New England were not sent until they showed a willingness to work their way. Several couples of students making a tour among the churches of Canada have been blessed in securing money. When a friend offers to support any one of us, let us make it known. A lady volunteer has found this her richest summer, as in the prospect of soon entering foreign

work she has been helped to present missionary facts to girls. The ladies of one church have engaged to support her, another club of ladies has started a fund for an outfit, and a ladies' Board has offered to send her. There are two colleges in Canada, neither large nor rich, each of which is about to send a man to China and support him for life. Why should not one hundred colleges immediately fall into line? Most of us are connected not alone with a college, but a church, a sabbath school, a city Y. M. C. A. We furnish a "living link" between these and the foreign field and secure constant prayers for our work by enlisting these to support us through our respective church Boards. Eighty-five people, each contributing twenty-five cents a week, will pay the salary of a missionary and of his wife. One Y. M. C. A. has adopted the twenty-five cent plan. The Young People's Association of a church in Chicago is about to issue cards ranging from five cents to five dollars a month. Out of every dollar contributed to God's service only two cents go to the foreign field. Every tick of your watch sounds the death-knell of a heathen soul. Every breath we draw, four pass from this world to the next without having heard of Christ. "The heathen are dying at the rate of one hundred thousand a day, and Christians are giving to save them at the rate of one-tenth of a cent a day." "Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet and shew *my people* their transgressions."

For *us volunteers* the most vital question is, not are we *financially* equipped but are we *spiritually* equipped? Is the Holy Ghost working in and through us? The best preparation for winning souls abroad is winning souls at home. Let each of us daily strive to reach an unconverted person. A college man took for his motto, "The whole world for

Christ, beginning at my college." May this year be the most soul-saving year ever known in our colleges. "He that is wise winneth souls." Already souls have been won by our number. We have seen a cloud the size of a man's hand. It means abundance of rain. It means winning souls at *home* while preparing to go abroad. But this rain is conditioned—"Bring ye the *whole* tithe into the storehouse . . . and prove me now herewith if I will not . . . pour you out a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it." It was said of Joseph, "Can we find such a one as this, a man in whom the Spirit of God is?" And "the Lord said unto Moses, Take thee Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the Spirit."

The command is, "Be filled with the Spirit." God says to each of us, "Art thou willing to be *emptied* in order to be filled?" If so, "The Spirit of the Lord will come upon thee and thou shalt be turned into another man." This promise is for us all. The hungry and thirsty shall be filled. "I will pour water upon him that is thirsty."

Do we tremble because "weak," "foolish," "despised," "base"? Such are God's chosen ones. The first heralds of resurrection news started "with fear," but "as they went to tell . . . Jesus met them." Many a missionary has started with fear but assurance has come in God's seal on his work. What we need is *power*. "The kingdom of God is not in word but in *power*." "Ye shall receive *power* after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you and ye shall be witnesses unto me . . . unto the uttermost parts of the earth." After our Savior had said these words and had ascended the disciples returned to Jerusalem where they "*all with one accord continued steadfastly in prayer*" for ten

days. When "they were *all* together in one place" the Holy Spirit came. They received power. Three thousand were added in a single day. *All* pray: *all* receive power. This Fall some of us sail for foreign fields. Some return to our colleges. But *all* of us are entitled to be missionaries now—to win souls now—to be filled with the Holy Spirit now. Some of us are asking this blessing of God every day at the noon hour. If every volunteer will join, a volume of prayer will daily rise to God from three thousand hearts. "They were *all* together in one place . . . and they were *all* filled with the Holy Spirit." They were "*day by day* continuing steadfastly with one accord in the temple . . . and the Lord added to them *day by day* those that were being saved."*

Committee in behalf of the One Hundred:

R. A. SCOTT MACFIE, Cambridge Univ., England.
H. F. LAFLAMME, Univ. of Toronto, Canada.
C. F. HERSEY, Bowdoin College, Maine.
S. C. MITCHELL, Georgetown College, Kentucky.
J. N. FORMAN, Princeton Theol. Sem., New Jersey.
R. P. WILDER, Princeton College, New Jersey.

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* As we receive answers to our united prayers let us make them known that we may return united thanks. Will volunteers in Great Britain please report to "Foreign Mission Volunteers" Caius College, Cambridge University, Eng. Those in Canada to "F. M. V." Knox College, Toronto. Those in the United States to "F. M. V." Union Theological Sem., Cor. 70th St. and Park Ave., N. Y.

Since this letter has gone to the press, the *undergraduates* of Princeton College have subscribed $1,460.00 for the support of a college missionary and native preachers. The missionary is a recent graduate and sailed for India within two days after his support was pledged. And the undergraduates of Princeton Theological Seminary have also subscribed $650.00 towards the salary of a missionary, and expect to have the full amount ($700.00) in a few days.

SEPT. 23.

A Missionary Band. The Bible House, Toronto, Canada. Price 55c.

The Crisis of Missions. *A. T. Pierson.* Carter Bros., 530 Broadway, N. Y. Price 63c. (Special offer to volunteers.)